

# FARMINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

## POLICY AND PROCEDURE



**Policy Number:** 261-07    **Effective Date:** 04/09/2018

**Subject:**  
The Use of Speed Measuring Instruments in  
Traffic Enforcement

**Approved by:**

**Steven D. Hebbe, Chief of Police**



### **PURPOSE:**

To establish guidelines for the operation of speed measuring instruments as part of the Department's speed enforcement program.

### **POLICY:**

It is the policy of the Farmington Police Department to use speed measuring instruments as an effective and accurate means of reducing speed related traffic violations. The Department supports radar and laser speed detection enforcement activities by providing adequate training to sworn officers in the proper use of such instruments.

### **PROCEDURE:**

#### **Radar and Laser Equipment Specifications**

Department issued radar and laser speed detection equipment is of a type manufactured to meet National Highway Traffic Safety Administration specifications.

#### **Operational Procedures**

Radar and laser speed detection instruments will be operated at times and locations related to high incidence of traffic accidents or excessive speed violations. Officers will use discretion when operating radar and laser speed detection instruments at selected locations, considering the traffic volume present and the positioning of their patrol vehicles so as not to impede the orderly flow of traffic.

#### **Operator Training and Certification**

Officers must have received training and certification to operate the Department's speed detection instruments. Records of officers certified to operate radar and laser speed detection instruments will be maintained by police administration training files. Any instructor of Laser and Radar Operations, Applicable Court Testimony, and Laser and Radar Practical Testing, must be approved by the state academy.

## **Radar Speed Detection Instruments**

Refer to the individual radar instrument's operator's manual regarding the operation of the various radar equipment.

Prior to utilizing the radar instrument in speed enforcement activities, officers will:

1. Inspect the radar instrument for visible damage;
2. Check the instrument's internal calibration according to manufacturer's guidelines;
3. Check the instrument's visual display for proper function;
4. According to the manufacturer's guidelines, check the instrument for accuracy utilizing the specific tuning fork assigned to the instrument.

A similar inspection of the instrument's condition and operating capacity should be completed at the end of the enforcement activity.

## **Laser Speed Detection Instruments**

Refer to the individual laser speed detection instrument's operator's manual regarding the operation of the various laser equipment.

Prior to utilizing the laser speed detection instrument in speed enforcement activities, officers will:

1. Inspect the laser instrument for visible damage;
2. Check the instrument's internal calibration according to the manufacturer's guidelines;
3. Check the instrument's display panels and audible signals for proper function;
4. According to the manufacturer's guidelines, check the unit for accuracy through the targeting of stationary objects.

A similar inspection of the instrument's condition and operating capacity should be completed at the end of the enforcement activity.

## **Proper Care and Upkeep**

Unassigned Laser and Radar Speed Detection Instruments:

When not in use, laser and radar instruments will be stored in their proper containers in the radar/laser storage cabinet. The speed detection instruments will be checked out from Traffic Division by signing the speed detection instrument log. Officers using the speed detection equipment will be responsible for reporting

malfunctions, problems, or damage to the instruments to their respective supervisors and also notify the Traffic Sergeant.

**Permanently Assigned Laser and Radar Speed Detection Instruments:**

The instruments are permanently assigned by the Traffic Sergeant who will maintain an inventory record of the instruments. When not in use, officers will keep instruments which are not permanently mounted to their police vehicles in the instrument's proper container. Officers using the speed detection equipment will be responsible for reporting malfunctions, problems, or damage to the instruments to their respective supervisors and also notify the Traffic Sergeant.

**Scheduled Maintenance:**

Departmental speed detection instruments should be inspected and calibrated every third year or as needed. If an instrument has suffered a malfunction it will be repaired and re-certified. The Department maintains records of all repairs and certification reports.